



JOINT INSPECTION OF **ADULT SUPPORT** AND **PROTECTION**

Information for staff taking part in Focus Groups (August 2023)

The Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007 places a duty on local authorities to work with other public bodies to protect adults at risk of harm. It provides a strong framework that ensures when an adult affected by disability, mental disorder, illness or physical or mental infirmity is at risk of harm, they are made safe, protected, supported, included, and consulted.

The Care Inspectorate and our partners, His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland (HMICS), and Healthcare Improvement Scotland (HIS), have carried out 25 joint inspections across Scotland in the past two years. You can read our overview report of that work [here](#). Phase 2 of the inspection programme started in August 2023 and will begin by inspecting the six areas that were originally inspected in 2017-2018. This includes your partnership area.

We want to find out about how well your partnership is delivering adult support and protection key processes and leadership. This includes how social work, Police Scotland, healthcare services, and other agencies work together to protect adults at risk of harm.

To achieve this, we will:

- Consider the position statement and evidence provided by the partnership.
- Survey staff involved in adult support and protection.
- Read case files that show how services are carrying out adult support and protection work.
- Speak with staff working in/with adult support and protection services about key processes and leadership in adult support and protection work.

We want to talk to you about the services you provide and the difference the service makes to the lives of adults at risk of harm. This is important because **what you think really matters**.

Someone may contact you to arrange a meeting with us. If your manager asks you to attend, you will be invited to attend a multiagency focus group with 8 – 10 participants. The focus groups will usually be in-person but could be via digital means. The session will be led and scribed by two members of the joint inspection team and should last no more than 1½ hours. The write up of the session will not include any information about you or anything that could identify you. Following the conclusion of this work, we will prepare a report for publication based on of our evaluations for each partnership, findings, and any recommendations for improvement.

There are three focus groups:

- Strategic Management and Leadership Focus Group – this should include the chair of the adult support and protection committee, the Chief Social Work Officer and other key strategic leaders across social work, health and police.
- Middle Managers Focus Group – this should include middle managers responsible for operational oversight of key ASP processes.
- Frontline Practitioners Focus Group – this should include frontline workers from all the services involved in adult support and protection. Frontline managers should not attend this focus group.

All focus groups are held of the last day of the file reading week – usually a Friday.